

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed relaxation in ownership and consolidation rules, particularly those that would allow large media companies to expand their ownership of local television and print media. A small handful of large conglomerates own the bulk of Americans' sources of broadcast news, and it is increasingly important to make it possible for smaller entities to enter and compete in local markets. This can be very difficult when the competition is made up of corporations with billions of dollars of resources, not to mention cross-connections to other commercial interests which they often advertise, under the guise of "public service". I see or hear very little other than the product of the main corporations -DISNEY, GE (NBC, etc.), AOL-TW, Fox (owned by foreign citizen Rupert Murdoch, who is known for his deals with totalitarian governments (China, etc) to expand his media empire) on my television screen, and most Americans get their information from these sources. Where are the great cultural expressions of our time? Where can I see fine modern dance, hear new voices from the music, art and cultral landscape of our country and the world? It is increasingly more difficult, in spite of the spate of cable channels, most of which have something to sell.

I urge a vote against consolidation, and any opening possible to smaller entities to allow greater diversity and plurality of voices in broadcast and print media.